



# The Eagle



The Monthly Newsletter of the Federal Community

The Federal Executive Board of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota

<http://www.doi.gov/febtc/>

August 1997

Volume III Number VIII

## The FEB Now Takes Credit Cards!!!



To be responsive to the Federal communities needs, the Federal Executive Board of the Twin Cities is ready to take your government I.M.P.A.C. or personal credit card for Interagency training, workshop/luncheon registration or for other FEB activities. FEB Chair Sharon Ellett (OPM Twin Cities) notes "This is exactly what the Federal community was asking the FEB to do and we followed suit." She added "this action will continue to make government less expensive to the taxpayers and more responsive to agencies and their employees." We will take agency I.M.P.A.C. cards or personal American Express, MasterCard, Visa, Diner's Club or Discover credit cards. For more information call the FEB at (612) 725-3687.

## The Eagle Is Changing!

This newsletter is evolving. We want *The Eagle* to be a publication to serve your the needs of your agency and employees. Let us know how you like the *New Look*!



## Dr. H.C. Mac McClure, former chair of the Oklahoma City FEB, will be the Keynote at FEB Full Board Awards Luncheon on September 24th

Dr. McClure was the Oklahoma City FAA agency head and chairman of the Federal Executive Board in Oklahoma City in 1995. He will deliver the keynote address at the annual FEB awards luncheon, 11:30 A.M., September 24 at the Women's Club of Minneapolis' Ballroom. An excellent speaker, Dr. McClure delivers an insightful and inspirational program about the important lessons learned during and following the bombing of the Murrah Federal Office Building on April 19, 1995. We are indeed lucky to have him address the full board of our FEB.

Dr. McClure is currently a professor of Aviation Education at Oklahoma State University in Edmond, Oklahoma. Another announcement on the luncheon and the awards ceremony will be forthcoming.



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For General  
Distribution To All Federal  
Employees In Your Office



## A New Telephone System Is Coming To Your Office



A partnership/contract between the General Services Administration and the U.S. West Communications Corporation is resulting in a major overhaul of the GSA telephone system throughout the State of Minnesota. The system is called Centron and is a telephone company central office based service offering more benefits and features than the current obsolete system offered by GSA. This service promises to be

far more reliable and will be updated constantly by U.S. West. The GSA contract runs for a period of two years but the telephone company has stated that their rates will remain constant over the next five years. The Centron system offers both analog and digital service and also offers advanced ISDN lines for voice, data and

videoconferencing on your desktop computer.



The Centron system will also enable FTS2000 users to fully utilize the capabilities of the governmentwide FTS program. This new phone system will be installed over the next 6 months at Federal Offices at Fort Snelling, Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth. Some service interruptions are possible but U.S. West promises to keep these at a minimum. There is the possibility that telephone numbers may change in several localities. For more information call your GSA Telecommunications office serving your location or Nancy Heim, (612) 221-6937, Federal Account Manager at U.S. West Communications in St. Paul. Federal customers can also visit the U.S. West web site located at <http://www.uswest.com/federal/>.



## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL BLOOD DONORS

The Blood Donor Center of the VA Medical Center will be restructuring and sharing their nursing staff with other areas in the hospital which provide patient care. Therefore, effective August 1, 1997, the following days and time will be available for blood donations:

Hours for Donating:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 12:15 P.M.- 7:30 P.M.

Friday 9:30 A.M. -3:30 P.M.

The recruiter will be available on Wednesday from 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

In addition, the VA Hospital parking lot will be undergoing routine maintenance. During this time, the blood donor parking spaces will be available for use by patients and visitors. After the parking lot is paved, lines painted and signs

## School Supply Drive sponsored by the American Indian Program Council is on now through September 3, 1997!

The American Indian Program Council of the FEB Twin Cities is encouraging all Federal Employees to take part in helping needy kids by donating school supplies (e.g. pencils, pens, crayons, colored paper, markers, notebooks, notebook paper, folders, scissors, sketch pads, construction paper, rulers, glue, colored pencils, protractors, paper, etc.). The supplies will be donated to the Four Winds Elementary School in the Philips Neighborhood of Minneapolis. Monetary donations are welcome and will be used for shipping fees and other supplies. Please make the checks payable to the Treasurer, FEBTC.

There will be a *drop box* on the 6th floor of the BHW Federal Building, the FEB office, and various other locations in other Federal offices. Call Cindy Hadlich at 370-2000 or Lisa Heckman at 370-2369 for more information.





## Log On To The New Internet Web Site for the Twin Cities Federal Executive Board

The Eagle isn't the only thing that is changing at the Federal Executive Board of the Twin Cities, we even have a new address and web site in cyberspace. Our new internet site is located permanently at the Department of the Interior, our office's sponsoring agency. The www address will always be on the masthead of the Eagle and is **<http://www.doi.gov/febtc/>**. We will have links to all Federal agencies with offices in the Twin Cities and important information and links for Federal employees. Within the next six months the FEB home page will be a *one-stop shop* for the public as well as special sections for employees and agencies wanting quick information pertinent to their federal employment and the workplace.

Right now the FEB home page has links to over 50 government reinvention pages in addition to posting an electronic version of this issue of the Eagle, in full color. You can automatically E-mail us to suggest new topics or to give us feedback on the site.



Our new home page



Recycle this issue by sharing it with all of your staff



## Second Annual CFC Golf Tournament

Monday, Sept. 8th

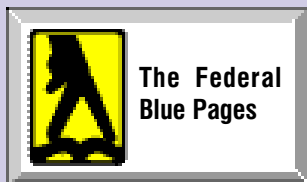
Southern Hills Golf Course

Farmington, MN

18 Hole Tournament

4 Person (Best Ball) Scramble

For more information or an application call the FEB at 725-3687



## Federal Blue Pages Project

The National Performance Review and General Services Administration, acting under the initiative of Vice President Gore, headed a project to redesign the government blue pages. Our FEB's Communications Council was asked to oversee the immense job of compiling all of the new submissions from Federal Government agencies throughout the State of Minnesota. Involving months of work, the project included holding a workshop to inform the agencies what was expected of them. These submissions were forwarded to Washington, D.C. for final editing and placement in the Minneapolis phone book only. Due to the timing of the project, the St. Paul phone book will be completed at a later date. Approximately 60 government agencies submitted new formats for the blue pages. The combined efforts of those who worked on this project will result in easier to use government pages for the public.

The Eagle is published by the Federal Executive Board staff. We encourage any comments, suggestions or articles. Please submit information by FAX or E-mail: [FEB\\_Twin\\_Cities@ios.doi.gov](mailto:FEB_Twin_Cities@ios.doi.gov) **We prefer E-mailed material.**

The next deadline is August 21, 1997.

Editor/designer: Ray Morris, Executive Dir.

Co-Editor: Margaret Geisler, Admin. Ass't.





## Focus On:

### The Newest Courthouse In America

The new Federal Courthouse building in Minneapolis is a striking contemporary embodiment of a U.S. Courthouse. Its design is a combination of elements connoting strength, simplicity, and respect while at the same time is open and approachable. The design consciously avoids traditional architectural motifs such as columns, pediments, and other symbolic devices that have come to represent the power of the government. Instead, it responds to its regional context by reflecting the progressive social ethic of Minnesota through an architectural vocabulary firmly rooted in the tradition of modern civic classicism.

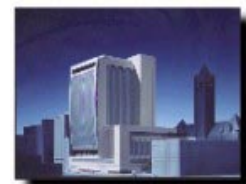
This new 15-story building encompasses 465,000 gross square feet above ground and 265,000 gross square feet underground built and maintained by the General Services Administration (GSA). City of Minneapolis and Federal officials worked on a agreement whereby the City donated the land across from City Hall and brought to fruition the dreams of founding fathers where there would be a civic corridor connecting the three branches of government, city, county and Federal in downtown Minneapolis. An underground tunnel linking the new courthouse and City Hall benefits the public and tenants of each building.

The United States Courthouse was built for the Federal Court System based on their twenty-year expansion plan. Initial tenants include the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals; the U. S. District Court of Minnesota (Probation, Federal Public Defender and Pretrial Services; the Bankruptcy Court; U. S. Trustee, U. S. Attorney; U. S. Marshals Service; Federal Bureau of Prisons; Occupations Safety and Health Administration; Defense Contract Audit Agency, and General Services Administration)

The U. S. Courthouse received two national GSA Design Excellence Awards for architecture and landscape design. The central lobby entry includes towering granite pylons and floor to ceiling windows facing the plaza and the historic City Hall.

The plaza landscape design was recognized for its tribute to Minnesota's cultural and natural history. Earth mounds and logs form the symbolic and sculptural elements for the 50,000 square foot civic plaza in front of the U.S. Courthouse. The mounds suggest glacial drumlins or a range of low mountains. Native vegetation covers the mounds.

From an urban perspective, Cindy Blundy, GSA Building Manager reports, the building is a centralized, asymmetrical response to the historic City Hall, a 1905 Romanesque style. The two volumes that make up the mass of the courthouse—a tower and a low-rise building—establish a dialogue with each other, creating a composition that simultaneously expresses tension and equilibrium. This dynamic is symbolic of the judicial process, which ultimately seeks a resolution of opposing forces. The courthouse is located at 300 South Fourth St. in Minneapolis.



## Just What Is The Federal Executive Board? - Part 1

Over the next few issues we will explore what is the Federal Executive Board (FEB) and how it can help you and your agency. This issue will explore the national view of the FEBs. President John F. Kennedy created Federal Executive Boards to improve intragovernmental affairs in 1961. The FEB of the Twin Cities began in 1963. Today, more than a quarter century later, FEBs exist in 28 of the nation's largest cities to provide closer coordination among Federal agencies outside Washington, D.C. FEBs serve as regional hubs for all governmental activity, their work relates to five key national mission objectives.

### Federal Executive Board Mission National Objectives

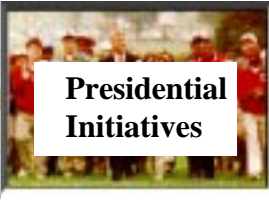
**Communicate** - FEBs inform member agencies of each other's initiatives and successes, and the local community of national policies and priorities.

**Reduce Costs and Improve Efficiency** - FEBs bring together agencies with common goals so that their efforts are complementary.

**Facilitate Service Delivery** - FEBs draw together agencies with common clients so that government services are convenient for the customers.

**Partner with Community Groups** - FEBs partner with community groups to solve problems.

**Coordinate Emergency Services** - FEBs stand ready to marshal resources of the entire Federal community, whether to aid a member agency in crisis, or to assist the citizenry in a public emergency.



## Presidential Initiatives

## Twin Cities Welfare To Work Initiative Update

President Clinton has asked the Federal government take the lead in welfare reform by hiring 10,000 former welfare recipients over the next four years to work within the Federal workforce. In an effort to assist you in this process, the local FEB has taken the following steps:

FEB hosted two satellite broadcasts, on May 29 and June 26. Videotapes of these broadcasts are available from the FEB office. Please call 725-3687. Our FEB's Welfare To Work lead agency contact is Mr. William Insley, Human Resources Manager, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, phone: 725-2060.

The FEB office surveyed each agency and established a list of the Welfare to Work agency representatives. These representatives were invited to a meeting on June 25 with three representatives from the Minnesota Department of Economic Security. That agency has agreed to collaborate with the Federal community on the commitment to hire welfare recipients by connecting the state Workforce Center system and provider network with our needs. They have provided to us the name and phone number for a service provider in each of the seven counties in the Metropolitan Area. At this meeting, Sharon Ellett, OPM service center manager and Chair of the FEB, provided information, handouts and an opportunity for dialogue for the representatives. A second meeting on July 30th, hosted by Insley, provided an opportunity to further define the initiatives.



## Awards For Your Hard Work <http://www.npr.gov/library/awards/>

### The Hammer Award

The Hammer Award is Vice President Al Gore's special recognition to teams of federal employees (not individuals) who have made significant contributions in support of the President's National Performance Review (NPR) principles. Those principles are: 1. Putting customers first; 2. Cutting red tape; 3. Empowering employees, and; 4. Getting back to basics.

The Hammer Award is the Vice President's answer to yesterday's government and its \$400 hammer. Fittingly, the award consists of a \$6.00 hammer, a ribbon, and a note from Vice President Gore, all in an aluminum frame. The award recognizes new standards of excellence achieved by teams helping to reinvent government. About 600 Hammer Awards have been presented to teams comprised of federal employees, state and local employees, and citizens who are working to build a better government.

Nominatinon applications for this year's Hammer Awards were faxed to all agency heads and must be returned to the FEB office no later than COB Friday, August 15, 1997.

## The President's Quality Award

The underlying principles and Award Criteria for the President's Quality Awards are based on the core values found among the highest-performing organizations in the industrialized world today. These principles and Award

Criteria have for some time been used to recognize outstanding organizations in the private sector by the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. They are equally applicable to organizations in the public sector. The President's Quality Award Program Award Criteria are based on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Criteria with modifications reflecting the unique aspects of federal government organizations.

The Award Program recognizes organizations for operational performance excellence and improvement through two awards: the Presidential Award for Quality and the Quality Improvement Prototype (QIP) Award. Both are awarded to Federal organizations on an annual basis. Applications for the 1998 President's Quality Award Program must be received no later than October 6, 1997, by the Office of Personnel Management. Application instructions and nomination forms are available by calling the FEB office at (612) 725-3687 or through the NPR website address listed above.





## The FEB Interagency Training Home Page

Please Forward This Segment To Your Local Agency Training Officer/Office  
and All Employees



### Computer Training Coupons Are A *Steal* from the FEB

The word is out. The Inter-Agency Training Council (ITC) has been selling computer training coupons from New Horizons Computer Learning Center. The cost of the coupon is \$75 (regularly \$225), and the coupon can be used for day of training at any of the four Twin Cities locations. New Horizons will also teach an on-site course for up to 12 individuals for 12 coupons.

The ITC initially purchased a bundle of 500 coupons to sell to the local Federal community. The goal of the coupon purchase was to provide high quality training at a reduced price that could benefit Federal agencies with small offices in the Twin Cities. But the program is not limited to smaller offices. Larger agencies have also taken advantage of the program, purchasing 200+ coupons at a time. Additional coupons have been purchased and the FEB continues to offer the Computer Training Coupon Program. Whether you're upgrading your software or just need to brush up on you computer skills, New Horizons has a course for you. And for \$75, you can't go wrong. **Coupons may be purchased in FY97 for courses offered in FY98.**



### Here are several testimonials about the FEB training coupon program

"Thanks for offering this program. Our agency could have never negotiated such a low price."

"The training was great. I can't wait to go to the next class."

"Very professional instructors and quality instruction. The book and sample exercises (on diskette) I got to bring back was worth the \$75."

"Others in my office went to a Windows 95 training course that cost over \$300 dollars, and I learned more than they did!"

For more information call Alan Lilly (FSIS) at (612) 370-2010 x 2502, Tracy at New Horizons (612) 866-7000 or the FEB office at (612) 725-3687.

## Upcoming Workshops

Tuesday, September 16

### Disability Awareness Council Annual Training

8:30 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

Registration 8:00 - 8:30 A.M.

**"Bridge To The Future"**

The sixth Annual Disability Awareness Workshop will be held at the VA Medical Center. The keynote speaker will be Ms. Susan Hagel, Certified Recreational Specialist at the Abbott-Northwestern Hospital, Sister Kenny Institute. Ms. Hagel won a bronze medal in basketball at the 1996 ParaOlympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1994, she received the Silver Award in basketball at the World Gold Cup Championship in England.

For more information on the DAC Workshop, call Phyllis Krull (FSIS) at (612) 370-2010 x 2551.

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

### Federal Woman's Program Annual Training

Minneapolis Education Center (Formerly the REMC)

5445 Minnehaha Ave., South



## The FEB Interagency Training Home Page

Please Forward This Segment To Your Local Agency Training Officer/Office  
and All Employees



### Upcoming Training Schedule Of The FEB Interagency Training Council

September 15, 1997	Pre-Retirement Seminar
September 16, 1997	Pre-Retirement Seminar
October 21, 1997	Mid-Career Financial Planning Seminar
November 18, 1997	Cultivating Your Benefits Seminar
*December 16, 1997	*Pre-Retirement Seminar
January 13, 1998	Mid-Career Financial Planning Seminar
February 10, 1998	Cultivating Your Benefits Seminar
March 10, 1998	Pre-Retirement Seminar
April 28, 1998	Mid-Career Financial Planning Seminar
May 12, 1998	Cultivating Your Benefits Seminar
June 16, 1998	Pre-Retirement Seminar
July, 1998	no seminars scheduled
August, 1998	no seminars scheduled
September 15, 1998	Pre-Retirement Seminar

All of the above seminars require preregistration. Registration materials are sent to each agency head 30-45 prior the seminar date. All of the above seminars will be held in Room 570, BHW Fort Snelling.

\*-Seminar is held at the VA Medical Center Auditorium



### The W. Edwards Deming Outstanding Training Award Applications Are Solicited

W. Edwards Deming is considered to be the father of total quality management. Deming's theories on quality control sparked the renewal of Japan's economy following World War II and began the total quality movement. The W. Edwards Deming Outstanding Training Award is presented annually to a government organization in recognition of the completion of an innovative and impressive employee development and training initiative that has achieved measurable results. The award is given in recognition of an overall training effort that has a significant impact within the agency for a particular training initiative or that has impacted on the organization. Nominations for this year's award are being accepted by the USDA's Graduate School. The deadline for submission of nominations is September 30, 1997. If you are interested in the nomination form, please contact the Federal Executive Board Office at 725-3687.

## Upcoming Workshops -Con't

Wednesday, October 29

### Second Annual Special Emphasis Program Manager's Training Event

8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M..

Minneapolis Education Center

(Formerly called the REMC)

5445 Minnehaha Avenue South

SEPM: "THE BUSINESS CASE"

Last year's training event was a great success and this year's should be fantastic!!!

November, 19

### Fifth Annual American Indian Awareness Conference

7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M..

to be held at the Minneapolis Education Center of VA (REMC).

Registration is \$25 and seating is limited to 70 people. More information will be available in coming issues of *The Eagle*.